

Short Circuit



February 1987

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Arctic Amateur Radio Club
Newsletter Editor
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Over There

It is with great pleasure that we welcome a new contributor to Short Circuit. Bill Hunstein has been a ham for 3-1/2 years, an extra for two. His station (shared with his dad, Ed) is a Yaesu FT101ZD/FT757. A Drake L4B amp. puts power to a 3 element tribander. Bill has the Worked All Continents and Worked All Zones awards, and has 220 countries to his credit. We hope that you enjoy Bill's DX column.

DX Column
by Bill Hunstein (KL7TC)

As you probably know, this time of the year is not the best time for DX, at least not on the higher bands of HF. But that doesn't mean there aren't any DX stations on the air, by all means.

For the newer hams, who are not familiar with some of the excitement shared by most all hams at one time or another, there is an activity we call DX. This is contacting a ham in a country or countries outside of our own. Alaska and Hawaii are considered countries, for this purpose. At the present time, there are somewhere in the neighborhood of 319 countries on the DXCC List.

The DXCC List is a list of countries published by the ARRL awards committee. The DXCC award is available to all licensed hams, all over the world, who

have proof of contact with 100 or more countries on the list. The proof of contact is a QSL card from the DX station. The DXCC award is probably the award most sought by hams.

Of course, the DXCC is not the only DX award. For the new ham, novice or technician, the DXCC can be very difficult, especially now, with the sun spot cycle at the bottom. Starting out, one might want to try for an easier award, such as the Worked All States (WAS) award. All one needs to do is work and confirm a contact with all 50 states. Don't get me wrong. This is no piece of cake, but it is challenging and can be lot's of fun, too.

If you are a general or above, as I am, you might want something a little or a lot harder. In Alaska, when 20 meters and most of the other bands go dead, you can almost always go to 20 meter CW, and work Russians.

There are at least five awards available from the USSR. These five awards are:

R-10-R: work and confirm at least ten of the following regions in 24 hours:

- 1 UA
- 2 UA, UC, UP, UR, UG
- 3 UA
- 4 UA
- 5 UB, UD
- 6 UA, UD, UG, UF
- 7 UL
- 8 UH, UI, UM, UJ
- 9 UA
- 0 UAA

R-15-R: work and confirm each of the 15 republics of the USSR within 24 hours.

W-100-U: work and confirm at least 100 stations of the USSR with minimum report of 337 (CW) or 33 (phone). At least five must be in area 9.

R-100-Q: work and confirm at least 100 *oblasts* (kind of like counties) of USSR.

RAEM Award: This award is probably the hardest and most prestigious of the Russian awards. For this one you must work stations in the USSR for a total of 68 points. Sounds easy enough, right? Guess again. All contacts must be made with Russians above the Arctic Circle, and all contacts must be made in CW! [Editor's note: Ed Hunstein has one of three RAEM awards in Alaska. In the 15 years since this award was first offered, only about 1680 have been issued!]

There are hundreds of awards out there, and most take some doing to get. In the pursuit, you will have a lot of fun.

Of course, if you're not interested in award hunting, but just rage chewing or just DX hunting, then you can do plenty of that, too. For the DX hunters, like me, here is some of the current news.

3Y2GV and 3Y1EE on Peter-I Island have been active on 15, 20, 40, and soon on 80 meters. The word I have gotten from the west coast stations is that the 3Y's will be on the island 'till February 10. If you are still looking for them, you have until about February 5 to work them. For us KL7's under the aurora, listen at about 0000Z on 14.145 receive. Transmit from 14.200-14.250. If you are lucky enough to work them, QSL to LA6VM. And by the way, this makes country number 319 on the DXCC list.

From our own neck of the woods, here in town, a local ham is down on Johnston Island. Be on the lookout for Bill, KN4BPL/KH3. He has been heard on 20, 40, and 80, with a good signal on all bands.

Jim Smith (VK9NS), who runs the 220 Net on 14.220 at about 0600Z, will be signing VK9YS from Cocos Keeling for two weeks, beginning on February 10. He will then QSY to Christmas Island for another two weeks as VK9XS. QSL to Jim at the address in the callbook.

For closing, I've saved the best for last -- the 50th anniversary of the DXCC. The ARRL is sponsoring this Golden Jubilee award to celebrate the anniversary. To qualify, all one needs to do is work, not confirm, 100 countries from the DXCC list between January 1 and December 31, 1987. Official entry forms are available from ARRL headquarters. I will soon be getting a copy of the forms myself. The certificate costs \$5, and is a very attractive award for the ham shack wall.

If you have any news, questions, or hot DX tips, you can reach me on 2 meters, or at 488-3291. Happy DX hunting, and have fun, Fun, FUN!!!!

Repeaters

Repeaters
by Craig Bledsoe (K4TXK)

New repeaters are going up at Eielson AFB. The 146.19/79 machine is up and available from its location on Engineer Hill, behind Eielson. A UHF link will be added this summer to an autopatch line on the base. In addition, 146.37/97 is now working in a temporary location at the home of NL7IU. This machine will be installed at nose dock two this summer after reroofing is completed at that site. The antenna will be at 80 feet, and an autopatch will be available on this machine as well. Both repeaters are sponsored by the Borealis ARC, out of North Pole and Eielson.

34/94 Autopatch: unavailable (no phone)

28/88 Access: requires 103.5 Hz. tone

Packet Radio

Packet notes
by Tom Walyer (KL7GNG)

New BBS ver 3.12 Loaded

The BBS is up and running on an AT now. The computer is much faster than the old XT and has more memory, up from 20 to 30 megabytes. Wednesday I loaded WA7MBL's version 3.12 BBS software and have had little trouble with it since.

The system now supports binary file transfers. A separate directory lists binary files. Note that you must be using MBL's YAPP terminal program to transfer binary files to and from the BBS. YAPP only supports MS/DOS machines (IBM and clones). I think that Jeff's work in this area will push other computer programmers to include this binary protocol in their terminal programs. Watch for Commodore users to have it soon. (I hope.)

You can now type a "?" followed immediately by a command letter at the command prompt to see a help file about that command. There is a file for each command. Users can also toggle the command line off or on with the "x" command. As of this date (January 31), no one has tied the binary transfer feature, but I expect to see some action this weekend when more people are home playing with their computers.

There are many changes in this latest release of Jeff's software. I am not through with all the mods to the system yet. If you find any problems, please report them to me. It may be I have yet to implement that function.

I am back on twenty meters (14.107) again and can forward to states. The bands have been lousy last few days. Not much traffic has been passed.
Tom/KL7GNG

Operating Events

Ice Festival

Plans are continuing for the Ice Festival operating events. Two thousand QSL cards have been printed for mailing by hams participating in the month long on-the-air QSO party in March. Hams are encouraged to mention Fairbanks and the Ice Festival during contacts from their home stations, and to use the cards provided by the Ice Festival committee. Contact Bill Hunstein (KL7TC) or Ed Hunstein (KL7XD) for information.



The Ice Festival parade will be a big event this year, and hams are needed to provide safety communication. [See the report on the board meeting, elsewhere in this issue.] Wigi Tozzi (AL7IF) is coordinating parade communications. Call if you are interested.

Mike Drury (KL7GL) is in charge of ham communications for the Ice Festival Triathlon. This race involves snowshoeing, skiing and running. Contestants are also required to carry a pack, to build a fire and boil water along the route. The event is arduous, and safety communications are important.

For general information, contact Craig Bledsoe (K4TXK), who is our liaison with the Ice Festival organizing committee.

Catch Your Own Bunny Boots
by Wigi Tozzi (AL7IF)

There will be a bunny hunt in the Fairbanks area on Saturday, February 21. If you plan to attend and participate, please inform Kurt Torgerson (NL7GW) or Wigi Tozzi (AL7IF). We wish to avoid the problem we had in the past concerning exceedingly low participation, especially in winter. If we do not hear from enough people to make the effort worthwhile, we will cancel.

Bunny hunts are especially fun, even for neophyte bunny hunters (see *Worldradio*, September 1986) with some elementary instruction. If you are free on the 21st, make an effort to participate. Full details, including rules and starting times will be placed on KL7GNG BBS, or you can ask Kurt or Wigi for complete details as they are available.

Propagation

Up-to-date solar flux/indices are no longer available on the UAF academic computer (the acad3 VAX), according to John Peterson. Although recent propagation forecasts published in Short Circuit refer to flux readings on the VAX, John told me he hasn't kept the file up for a while.

... from Wigi Tozzi (AL7IF)

Because of pressing business, there is no propagation forecast this month. Rod says the forecast is very much like last month, however. So don't count on DXCC in a day.

... from the editor

Yukon Quest QSO Party

In addition to the Ice Festival QSO party, there will again be QSL cards available for similar activities in support of the Yukon Quest. The Hunstein group has details.

Training & Testing

Spring Radio Classes
by Kurt Torgerson (NL7GW)

Wigi Tozzi (AL7IF) and Kurt Torgerson (NL7GW) are once again holding the novice and the tech/general upgrade classes this semester through Tanana Valley Community College.

The classes are open to all who have a desire to become hams, or who would like to upgrade their present license. Classes are non-credit (i.e. NO GRADES). The classes meet on Tuesday nights from 6:00 to 9:00, in room 202 of the Hutchinson Career Center.

It is not too late to register if you or someone you know would like to attend!

There is a registration fee of \$30 for each class (that is, \$30 for the novice, \$30 for the upgrade). From this fee, TVCC allocates about \$9 per classroom hour to cover costs of the class, including space rental, advertising and photocopying of instructional materials. The instructors receive about \$7 for each hour of class taught.

As in the past, someone who wants to take the class, but cannot afford the fees, the Board of Directors of the Arctic Amateur Radio Club will pay that person's registration fee. Applications for this "financial aid" should be addressed to the board, and will be considered promptly on a case by case basis.

So far, there are around 15 people signed up for the class this semester. We hope to see all of them on the air soon. If by chance you happen to meet one of our class members on the air, or at one of the club functions, take some time to introduce yourself, and to welcome them as new hams.

ARRL VEC
by Wigi Tozzi (AL7IF)

Club News

I have received from the ARRL the ARRL/VEC certification packets. Many of you are aware that I was to send for them, and some already have the packets. Each packet contains an application, a VE manual, and an open-book review which is to certify to the VEC that you have read and are familiar with the exam policies and procedures.

All amateurs over the age of 18 holding an advanced or extra class license are eligible to become VE's with the ARRL/VEC. Let me say that I am encouraging certification with the ARRL/VEC in parallel rather than instead of the Anchorage VEC.

I currently have eight VE manuals, and enough open book review forms for sixteen VE applicants. Obviously, we need to share manuals, and I believe we can Xerox copies of the review and applications, if demand warrants. Please spread the word to other VE's and prospective VEs who might be interested in certification.

If you would like to pick up a certification packet, please call me at 474-7536, room 206. If you are smart, you will look for me on the air before you resort to calling me at the dorm.

73, Wigi AL7IF
Fairbanks VE coordinator.

News Flash

The FCC has acted on the ARRL Novice Enhancement Proposal, PR Docket 86 161. On January 28, the commission amended part 97 to expand novice privileges to include CW, RTTY and SSB on the 10 meter subband, and all emission modes for subbands on the 220 and 1270 MHZ bands. The FCC announcement, released January 30, omits various pertinent details, including the effective date.

January Meeting and Program
7:30 pm Friday, 9 Jan 87
Geophysical Institute

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Directors' Meeting

From the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arctic Amateur Radio Club, held at 7 pm, Thursday, January 15 at the Conference Room in the Mary Siah Center. Kurt Torgerson (VP) presiding. Lewis Overton (NOSN), Secretary.

Barbara Cutting is coordinator of the Ice Festival Parade, to be held in downtown Fairbanks, March 21 at 11 am. She requested assistance from the Arctic ARC for communications. She needs about 10 hams along the route, a ham to stay with the coordinator, and a ham at the first aid station. Wigi Tozzi (AL7IF) was appointed AARC liaison. The board reaffirmed its policy to provide financial support for people who are unable to afford the fees for amateur classes. Requests for support will be reviewed by the board on a case-by-case basis.

The board approved a motion to place the framed print, donated to the club by the Yukon Quest organization, at the Fairbanks Visitors' Center.

The board approved a motion to investigate the ARRL as an alternate VEC, in addition to the Anchorage VEC.

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The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 7 pm, Thursday, February 19. The location is not known at press time.

Once upon a time, a very long time ago, when there was no snow on the Fairbanks ground, many hams assembled for an evening of talk and comestibles. The recipe for one of the latter was sent to your newsletter editor, but alas, the fellow lost it before it saw print. Only recently, overcome by guilt, when the papers on his desk fell over and crushed the neighbor's dog, your editor cleaned out his back notes. Lo and behold, there was the recipe. So with apologies to all for the delay, here is ...

Harvest Torte
by Mike Atwood (NL7AB)

Combine together, mixing thoroughly, but not beating:

4 cups unpared tart apples
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup sifted enriched flour
2 tsp baking powder
1 egg
1 Tbs melted butter
1 tsp vanilla
1/2 cup broken walnuts or coconut
1/2 cup cut-up dates

Put into greased 8" x 8" x 2" pan. Bake at 400° for 40 minutes or until apples are tender. Cut into squares and serve with whipped cream or topping. Ice cream on it when hot is good too!

Footloose Left Foot

I thought some of the members might be interested in what is going on with Joe Voelkelt (KL7LF).

He operated as KL7LF/KH3 for part of December, and made almost 2,500 contacts. Since the first part of January he has been attending school in Raleigh, N.C. He expects to be back on Johnston Island by about February 12. Most of his operating time is on weekends. He has logged quite a few CW contacts and will be QRV on RTTY and AMTOR after her returns.

... from George Winford (KL7VZ)

Ads and Such

A Hamfest

The Inland Empire Amateur Hamfest has asked that we announce their event. The tenth annual event will be held April 25, at the Red Cross Bingo Hall, West 708 Boone, Spokane, Washington, from 9 am to 5 pm. There is a \$2.00 entrance fee. Tables are \$8.00 in advance, \$10.00 after April 23. The hamfest will include seminars on DX, Amateur Satellite, Packet Radio, Electrical Safety, CPR and more. ARRL exams will be held for all classes of license. The site, within walking distance of downtown Spokane, covers 13,500 square feet of climate controlled, carpeted floor space.

Wanted

Drake RV-75 VFO & MN-2700 antenna tuner. Kenwood HC-10 clock. DM-81 grid dip meter.

For Sale

Drake NB-7 noise blanker for TR7. New. \$65 each.

Drake MN-75 (new) antenna tuner, 1.8 to 30 mhz, open line & coax, 300 watts, \$195. Drake AK-75 antenna, 1.8 - 30 mhz. New \$35 post paid via UPS, excellent value. [Ed. note: UPS not available to Fairbanks!]

Drake TR5 XCVR with NB5, CW filter, 1.8 to 10 meters, 7077 microphone, HD1144 power supply, 20 amps by Heath. \$525. ICOM R70 general coverage receiver, mint condx, \$475.

Contact Tony Musero (K3UKW), 1609 S. Iseminger St, Philadelphia, PA 19148. Phone (215)271-8898.

More Late News

At the same time as they announced the novice enhancements, the FCC separated examination element 3 into 3A and 3B. Technicians and generals will now be taking separate examinations.

*** Major route Map Follows***

* Tolsona Digi *
* On Line In April *

*--> To Anchorage via
Mt. Susitna in 87

** Note all sta. use 145.01
unless noted.

* KL7HQW-1 Digi *
* Paxon *

* KL7IS Digi *
* * * Lake Minchumina * *

To KL7EDK-1 Digi

* KL7EV *
* Tel. Phone * * *
* RBBS * *
* 145.01 *

KL7GNG Fairbanks area BBS
145.01 vhf 14,107 hf

* ---> 14,107 HF mail/fwd
link to K7IFG

145.05 vhf

* Restricted access
* HF Link under test

* KL7KC Solar Digi *
* under test Fbk *

* KL7EDK Digi *
* Fbk to Anc Link *

* KL7HFI BBS-Juneau *
* 14,107 HF 145.03 vhf *

Knife edge off Mt McKinley

HF Link not active at this time

* KL7EDK-1 Digi *
* Byers Lake *

** Knife edge off Mt McKinley

Knife edge off Mt McKinley

AL7IH Digi *
* Anc to Fbk Link *

* AL7B Digi *
* Anc to Fbk Link *

On line soon Anchorage area digi

* Anc area BBS-Wasilla *
* KL7JFU KL7JFU-1 * *
* 145.01 145.03 *

* NL7HP-1 *
* *Ak-Land RBBS *
* 145.03 *

* KL7AA-1 Digi *
* 145.01 *
* Rabbit Creek *

* VE6NH *
* Soldotna *

* KL7JL-1 Digi *
* Diamond Ridge *

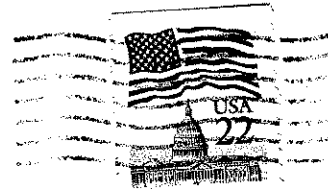
* W6YMR Digi *
* Anchor Point *

VE Meeting Friday
 6 Feb 87 7:00 pm
 UAF Geophysical Inst.
 General Meeting Friday
 6 Feb 87 7:30 pm
 UAF Geophysical Inst.
 Board Meeting Thursday
 19 Feb 87 7:00 pm
 Location Uncertain

Calendar of Upcoming Club Activities

Ham for lunch	Wednesdays	noon-ish	Bakery on College Road
Westlink News	Sundays	9 pm	146.88 (146.94 alt)
VE Meeting	Friday Feb 6	7:00 pm	UAF Geophysical Inst.
Meeting	Friday Feb 6	7:30 pm	UAF Geophysical Inst.
Ham Exam	Saturday Feb 7	1pm	Room 243 Duckering UAF
Board Meeting	Thursday Feb 19	7 pm	Location uncertain

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9/30/87

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